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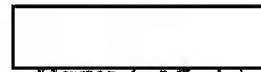
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1 Oct. 1965

The Honorable Alexander Flax
Director, National Reconnaissance Office
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flax:

The conclusion of a new NRO Agreement has caused us to examine the CIA organisational structure involved so as to assure ourselves that it will adequately support your office and its program. After careful study, we have decided to consolidate all of our satellite activities in the Office of Special Projects under Mr. John Crowley, and they will be responsible for CIA participation in CORONA, [redacted]
and other projects as required. Range reconnaissance aircraft development and operations will be the responsibility of the Office of Special Activities under Brigadier General Jack Ledford, which will manage the U-2 and OXCART programs. The development of airborne electronic equipment is accomplished in the Office of ELINT under Mr. George Miller, but is responsive to the needs and program management of OSA. All of these offices report to the DD/R&T, who is Mr. Albert D. Theoton. [redacted]

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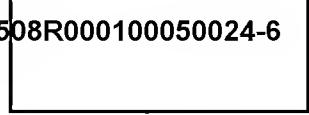
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All of this activity will come to a management focus in the person of a Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs, who will report to the DCI/NSC. Admiral Raborn and I will count on this individual to keep us informed on the NSC as appropriate. This will provide you with a suitable authoritative point of contact within the CIA for the new program. It will replace the present concept of a Director B manager and require General Ledford of the responsibility for programs over which he has no real authority. In the future we will expect General Ledford to serve only in a like capacity as part of the CIA organization, in place of his present dual responsibility which has proved difficult to him and us. It is our desire that the CIA program within the NSC be so identified and thus the Programs B designation of our activities be discontinued. I have designated [redacted] to serve in the capacity as Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs on a interim basis, and all correspondence on requests bearing on CIA participation in the NSC should be addressed to him. We would hope that working level contacts with the NSC Staff and Messrs. Crosley, Ledford, Miller, [redacted] would continue as before.

I believe that the implementation of these management steps will considerably enhance the ability of CIA to support the new NSC Agreement more effectively—an objective to which we are all pledged.

Sincerely,

/s/

Richard Helms
Deputy Director

cc: Mr. Vance
Admiral Raborn
Dr. Wilson
[redacted]
[redacted]

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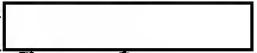
Distribution: Copies 1 & 2 - addressee 8 - D/DCI/NIPE
 3 - Mr. Vance 9 - [redacted]
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Deputy Director for Science and Technology

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